



**Message
 from the
 WIB Chair**

*Scott Kincaid
 First Community
 Bank*

Harnessing change has always been a strength of the WIB, for example, building a workforce that can adapt to the changing needs of business—while navigating the changing world economy.

This summer brings new changes and opportunities including the launch of Virtual One Stop and the Job Link move (a change that will increase efficiency and decrease costs.) The Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps, though not new to the WIB, provides a welcome change for low income youth: valuable work experience.

Job Link Move

SonomaWORKS and Job Link are consolidating 4 offices and about 40 partner staff into one office location in June to handle a growing number of clients needing services to find work. This move will lower the costs per square foot, create a more comfortable space for clients, increase security,

and improve communications. The newly remodeled space, located in the same Lakes Office complex as the Job Link's current space, is LEED certified, so the county is also anticipating lower energy costs.

The move will take place in stages during five weekends in June and early July. An Open House in the new location is planned for August.



Virtual One Stop

Job Link's "Virtual One Stop" has been launched and is running successfully. Virtual One Stop is an online service that allows job seekers to create a resume, apply for available job openings in Sonoma County and beyond, and allows employers to search resumes, post job openings, and access labor market information. In April, over 1,200 people used this service and were referred to

nearly 900 job openings.

Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps Kick-Off

The Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps (formerly known as the Summer Jobs program), will kick off its third year of providing paid job experience for low income youth ages 14-21 at Spring Lake on June 16, 2011. The Kick-Off event is made possible by a donation from Kaiser Permanente and will feature a lunch provided by Worth Our Weight, a culinary apprentice program for at-risk youth ages 16-24.

Overall funding for the Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps has been provided by the Workforce Investment Act, Sonoma County Water Agency, the Sonoma County Fish & Wildlife Commission, the Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, and the Miranda Lux Foundation.

This year's program will provide approximately 200 youth with a paid job this summer.

If you have questions or comments, call:
 707-565-8500
 or go to:
www.sonomawib.org